



# Osceola Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*The power of human connections®*



February 2024

## CONTACT US

### Office:

1102 Egret Drive  
Sibley, IA 51249

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

### Phone:

Local: 712-754-2519  
Toll Free: 888-754-2519

On evenings, weekends or holidays an answering service will accept power outage or emergency type calls only.

### Online:

osceolaelectric.com

## FIND YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

**Three account numbers are hidden within the newsletter. Notify us if you find your number and we'll credit your account \$5. Confirm your account number on the top of your statement. Account numbers must be yours to claim.**

## OEC RECIPES

Submit your favorite Bar Recipe for consideration to be printed in our May Newsletter. Submission deadline is April 20. Printed recipes are worth a \$10 bill credit.

## Directors Awarded Board Leadership Certificate



Congratulations, Terrence Clark, Dean Haspels, and Adam Hoekstra! These three directors recently completed the 15 classes necessary to be awarded the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). Thank you Terrence, Dean and Adam for taking the time to expand your knowledge of the electric cooperative industry.

### Remarks from Jeff TenNapel, CEO/GM:

I have been blessed to work within the cooperative business model for 36 years and have worked for several dedicated, member driven directors.

OEC is the first system that I worked for with term limits.

First glance, term limits make good sense, and we are keeping them—however, due to the complexity of the industry today, we spend more time during board meetings updating directors on financial, legislative, and environmental issues that affect your cooperative. With the many demands placed on directors, in 2019 your board adopted an education policy for directors. This policy has paid great dividends and your directors are more in tune with the ever-changing world we live in today.

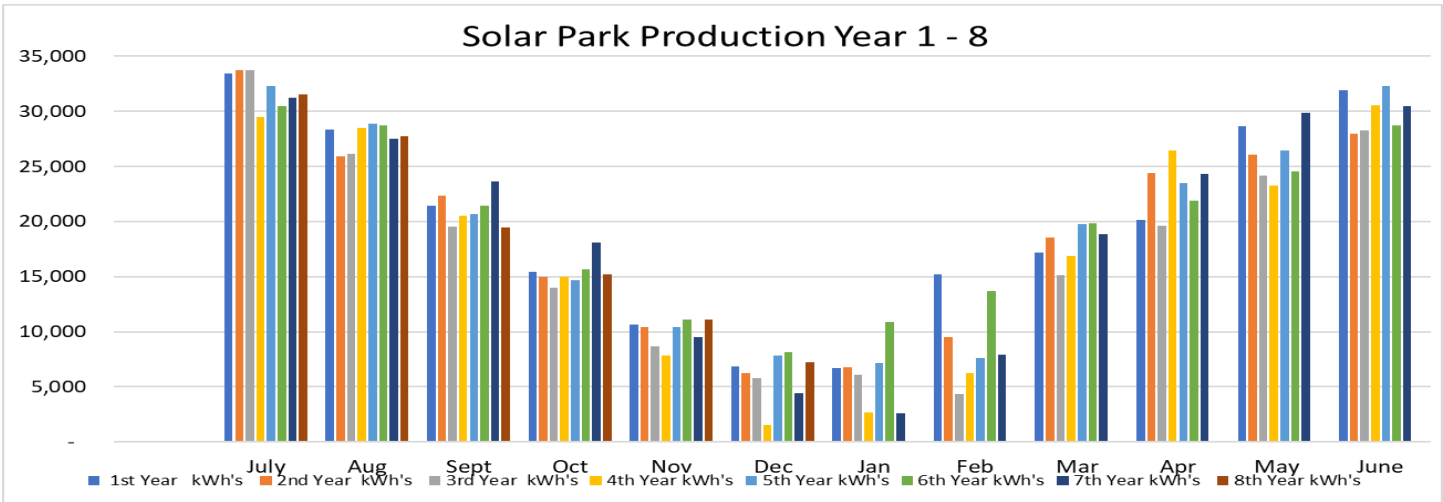
Annual Meeting Ballot—Members will be asked for an additional 6 years to extend term limits to 18 years, this will take advantage of directors' education and dedication to the membership. The board and I encourage the membership to vote for this Articles of Incorporation change.

Every 3 years each director will continue to be up for election—that will not change.

**The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held at the Osceola Electric Cooperative Office on March 23, 2024.**

**Come and go meeting from 8am—10am. Directors and staff will be available for questions. There will be a short meeting at 9 am to announce results of elections. Ballots must be received before 9 am.**

## Sterler Community Solar Park Update



The Osceola Electric Cooperative member owned 147 kilowatt (KW) solar park saw a decrease of 3.2 percent kWh from last year. Due to heavy snow cover the first quarter of 2023. In 2023 the Sterler Community Solar Park saw a production of 226,379 kilowatt hours (kWh). Members who purchased panels received a credit of .098134 cents per kWh.

Production was down from the manufacturers estimates – estimates are modeled by using a 20-year average of sun hours from the National Weather Service. The manufacturer estimates do not take into consideration snow cover or frosty mornings which both affect production. Following a snow event, it takes multiple days of sunshine for the snow to melt off the panels—which equals lost production.

Annually, the solar park produced energy for over 12 and 1/2 homes, with an average usage of 1,500 kWh's a month. For 24/7 – 365 days a year power we

need 100 percent capacity factor. Currently, the capacity factor is around 12 percent. Solar and wind are green energy resources, but they must be backed up with coal, natural gas, hydro or nuclear power or typically a mix of base load fuel sources. OEC is a proponent of “All the Above” power supply. Our wholesale power suppliers are balancing the power mix daily, even hourly to maximize wind, solar and hydro (green resources) with fossil fuels.

When batteries become more financially economical wind and solar projects will continue to expand and create an even greener fuel mix. **23250**

Overall, the solar park has been very educational. OEC staff are more than willing to share lessons learned and visit about the remaining 40 panels still available for purchase.

### Operating Statistics for December 2023

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Billed consumers, farm.....	1,146	1,150
Billed consumers, non-farm and others .....	119	123
Kilowatts sold, farm .....	3,557,976	2,787,450
Kilowatts sold, non-farm and others .....	2,297,677	4,976,555
Average consumption, farm.....	3,105	2,424
Average consumption, non-farm and others.....	19,308	40,460
Average statement, farm .....	\$315.20	\$267.61
Average statement, non-farm and others .....	\$1,643.81	\$2,782.38
Total minimum bills.....	21	23
Outage time per consumer—minutes .....	11 2/9	5 7/9
Energy efficiency added per KWH.....		0.00022
Annual meeting date .....	March 2024	

## Nominating Committee Appointed

In compliance with the by-laws of the cooperative, the board of directors has appointed the following members to act as the nominating committee for the selection of nominees for directors of this cooperative to be elected at the annual meeting of the cooperative to be held March 23, 2024.

**Al Brueggeman**  
1153 White Avenue  
Harris, IA 51345

**Lindsay Nasers-Watterson**  
1533 Redwood Ave  
Sibley, IA 51249

**Greg Winkel**  
4846 240th Street  
Ashton, IA 51232

**Craig Zylstra**  
5982 140th Street  
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

**David Van Wyk**  
6458 180th St  
Ocheyedan, IA 51354

**Jeff Kohn**  
7069 210th Street  
Harris, IA 51345

**Keith Zylstra**  
4832 170th Street  
Sibley, IA 51249

### FROM ARTICLE 1

**Section 1. Qualification and Obligations.** Any person, firm, corporation or body politic may become a member in the Cooperative by: (a) paying the membership fee hereinafter specified; (b) agreeing to purchase from the Cooperative electric energy as hereinafter specified and (c) agreeing to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative and these by-laws and any amendments thereto and such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the board of directors, provided, however, that no person, firm, corporation or body politic shall become a membership by the board of directors or the members. At each meeting of the members held subsequent to the expiration of a period of six (6) months from the date of incorporation of the Cooperative. All applications received more than (90) days prior to such meeting and which have not been accepted by the board of directors shall be submitted by the board of directors to such meeting of the members and subject to compliance by the applicant with the conditions set forth in subdivision (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Such application for membership may be accepted by a vote of the members at such meeting. The secretary shall give any such applicant at least ten (10) days prior notice of the date of the members' meeting to which his application will be submitted and such applicant may be present and heard at the meeting. No person, firm, corporation or body politic may own more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative.

### FROM ARTICLE II

**Section 5. Voting.** Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon at such meetings in person or by mail, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative, or these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.

**Section 6. Voting by Mail.** Any members who is absent from any annual or special meeting of the members may vote by mail upon any motion or resolution to be acted upon at any such meeting with respect to an amendment to the articles of incorporation or the by-laws. Or any action submitted pursuant to the resolution adopted by the board of directors or by petition of not less than ten per centum (10%) of the members. The secretary shall enclose with the notice of such meeting an exact copy of such motion or resolution to be acted upon and such absent members shall express his vote thereon in writing "yes" or "no" on each such motion or resolution in the space provided therefore and enclose each copy as marked in a sealed envelope bearing his name and addressed to the Secretary. When such written vote so enclosed is received by mail from an absent member it shall be accepted and counted as a vote of such absent member at such meeting. Any member who is absent from any meeting provided for in Section I or Article II for the election of directors by ballot as hereinafter provided in these by-laws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and absent from any annual or special meeting of the members they shall jointly be entitled to vote by mail as provided in this section. The failure of any such absent member to receive a copy of any such motion or resolution or ballot shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

### FROM ARTICLE III

**Section 3. Nominations.** It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, no less than thirty (30) days nor more than one hundred (100) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee

on nominations consisting of not less than five

(5) no more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation of the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty-two (32) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list is posted. A ballot marked "Ballot of Directors" containing the names of all the nominees as posted. Stating the residence of each shall be mailed with the notice of the meeting. The Secretary shall also mail with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition. Such statement of the Secretary shall also inform the members of the manner in which they may vote by mail for directors as provided in this section. Any member who is absent from any such meeting may vote by marking on the ballot an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name addressed to the Secretary. When such ballot so enclosed is received by mail from any absent members it shall be accepted and counted as a vote for directors by ballot of such absent member at such meeting. The member may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as hereinbefore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any such meeting they may vote by mail for directors by jointly marking and enclosing the ballot hereinabove provided for. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier. **21280**



## 2024 Basin Tour

Plans are underway for the 2024 Basin Bus Tour. This year's tour of the Basin Power Cooperative facilities in North Dakota will take place June 12-14.

Osceola Electric Cooperative sponsors this trip for our members to see how electricity is produced. **43825** Previous years' tours included: Basin Power Plant, Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant, Freedom Coal Mine, and Antelope Valley Station.

The cost of the trip is \$150 per person and includes transportation, 2 nights lodging, and tour fees. This trip is for OEC members only and seating is limited, please call 712-754-2519 to reserve your spot!

## Member Recipe

### Favorite Muffin Recipe

#### 2 Ingredient Chocolate Pumpkin Muffins

15.25 oz Devils Food Cake Mix (unprepared)

15 oz pumpkin puree (not pumpkin pie mix)

Preheat oven to 350°

Line a muffin tin with 12 muffin liners  
In a medium bowl mix together dry cake mix and pumpkin puree.

Divide the batter evenly among the 12 muffin liners.

Bake for 18-20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Cool for 5 minutes.

Denise Anderson

## HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



1. Member-owners elect board directors.

2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.

3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.



6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.

## Annual Meeting

The Director appointed Nominating Committee met January 5, 2024 to discuss candidates to run for the Osceola Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Candidates were needed for Area/District 3, 4, and 5.

Thank you to members Al Brueggeman, Lindsay Nasers-Watterson, Jeff Kohn, David Van Wyk, Greg Winkel, Craig Zylstra, and Keith Zylstra for taking the time to contact candidates and submit names for the ballot.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held on March 23, 2024, at the Osceola Electric Cooperative office. Coffee and rolls will be served from 8 am to 10 am. There will be a short meeting at 9 am to announce election results. Members who wish to drop off ballots must do so prior to 9 am—this is a come and go meeting, no reports will be presented.

Join us in August for a meal and prizes at our Member Appreciation Event.